

307.20 Bay Delta Initiative

Initiative Name and Acronym: Bay Delta Initiative (BDI)

Initiative Description/Summary: The purpose of BDI is to address water quantity and water quality resource concerns within priority areas of the California Bay-Delta Central Valley watershed. The initiative provides assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) as described in this guidance. Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) authorities and funding may be used to further the purposes of BDI, but guidance for that program is not addressed in this bulletin.

Approved or Participating States

BDI funds will be allocated to California to support priority project areas in the Bay Delta in which the primary resource concerns will be water quantity and water quality.

Program Contact Information

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ProTracts Requirements

1. Account Guidance

- For BDI funding, California is to select the **Bay Delta** account type in ProTracts. Use of this account type facilitates real-time monitoring of data in ProTracts which is imperative for BDI activities. BDI project-level subaccounts are to be created and named beginning with “BDI.” The subaccounts for the BDI project funding pools will be reviewed for consistency by the Regional Conservationists’ Office.

2. Application, Evaluation, and Ranking Tool (AERT) Guidance – Choice Lists and Matrix Data

- **Approved Land Types to be Populated in ProTracts AERT**

California must assign the following land uses as eligible for this initiative. (Other land uses are not authorized for BDI)

Approved Land Use
Crop
Farmstead
Pasture
Associated Ag Lands

- **Approved Natural Resource Concerns to be Populated in ProTracts AERT**

California must assign the following natural resource concerns for this initiative (other resource concerns are not authorized for BDI).

i. **Primary**

Insufficient Water
Insufficient Water – Inefficient Moisture Management
Insufficient Water – Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water

Water Quality Degradation
Excess Nutrients in Groundwater
Excess Nutrients in Surface water
Pesticides in Surface water
Pesticides in Groundwater

ii. **Secondary**

Soil Erosion
Sheet and Rill
Wind
Ephemeral gullies

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Soil Condition
Organic Matter Depletion

Note: No additional resource concerns may be added or used in ProTracts AERT to support this project.

- **Approved Conservation Practices to be Populated in ProTracts AERT**

Contracts developed under BDI must include at least one of the applicable core practices or must be completing a conservation system that supports core practices that are documented as already applied on the land under contract.

- **Core Practices Required to be Offered for This Initiative**

Core Practices	
Practice Code	Practice Name
327	Conservation Cover
328	Conservation Crop Rotation
340	Cover Crop
342	Critical Area Planting
422	Hedgerow Planting
595	Integrated Pest Management
449	Irrigation Water Management
590	Nutrient Management
528	Prescribed Grazing
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till

- **Supporting Practices that California May Offer to Support This Initiative**

Supporting Practices	
Practice Code	Practice Name
309	Agrichemical Handling Facility
575	Animal Trails and Walkways
317	Composting Facility
382	Fence
386	Field Borders
393	Filter Strip
410	Grade Stabilization Structure
412	Grassed Waterway
561	Heavy Use Area Protection
320	Irrigation Canal or Lateral
428	Irrigation Ditch Lining
388	Irrigation Field Ditch
464	Irrigation Land Leveling
436	Irrigation Reservoir
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation
443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface
447	Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery
430	Irrigation Pipeline
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet
516	Livestock Pipeline

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521C	Pond Sealing or Lining, Bentonite Treatment
521D	Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Clay Treatment
521A	Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane
521B	Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Dispersant Treatment
533	Pumping Plant
558	Roof Runoff Structure
367	Roofs and Covers
610	Salinity and Sodic Soil Management
442	Sprinkler System
620	Underground Outlet
587	Structure for Water Control
649	Structures for Wildlife
635	Vegetated Treatment Area
360	Waste Facility Closure
632	Waste Separation Facility
313	Waste Storage Facility
634	Waste Transfer
359	Waste Treatment Lagoon
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin
351	Water Well Decommissioning

- **Conservation Activity Plans That California May Offer to Support BDI**

Practice Code	Conservation Activity Plan Names
118	Irrigation Water Management Plan
102	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
104	Nutrient Management Plan
114	Integrated Pest Management

- **AERT Practice-Resource Concern Matrix**

California will populate the approved conservation practices in the ProTracts AERT and associate all core and supporting practices and conservation activity plan practices with resource concerns where CPPE values are positive or where those practices may be used to address a resource concern as part of a conservation system even if the individual practice may have a neutral or negative CPPE score.

3. Application, Evaluation, and Ranking Tool Guidance – Ranking Criteria Questions

The total ranking points associated with BDI are to be distributed in AERT and approved ranking questions as follows:

AERT Level	Maximum Points	Point Percentage
National-Level Ranking Questions	250	25%
State-Level Ranking Questions	250	25%
Local-Level Ranking Questions	400	40%
Efficiency Score	100	10%
Total points for this initiative:	1,000	100%

National-Level Ranking Criteria Requirements

National ranking questions are established in ProTracts by National Headquarters. By national policy, national priorities must account for 250 points or at least 25 percent of total points available.

State-Level Ranking Criteria Requirements

California will develop State ranking questions that prioritize applications that address priority needs, consistent with the overall BDI objectives to use a **systems approach** in **focused areas**.

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These questions will be entered into ProTracts as the “State Ranking Questions” section of the AERT by each State.

State-level ranking questions must account for a total of 250 points or at least 25 percent of total points available.

Local-Level Ranking Criteria Requirements

Local ranking questions are approved and entered into ProTracts at the State level.

Local-level ranking questions must account for a total of 400 points or at least 40 percent of total points available.

Cost-Effectiveness Calculation

By agency policy, the amount of points associated with the AERT cost efficiency calculation must be 100 points or 10 percent of total points available.

Screening Criteria Requirements

Screening criteria are not required for BDI. The State Conservationist may develop and approve screening criteria to assist in workload management.